

Ex 1576-A

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Evidentiary Document No. 5065.

IN THE MATTER OF J. JAPANESE WAR CRIMES AND
IN THE MATTER OF KUALA LUMPUR CAMP MALAYA.

A F F I D A V I T.

I P 31600 Laurence, John William, SEEKINGS, of the 2nd Battalion
Cambridgeshire Regiment, with permanent home address at 55, Kneesworth
Street, Royston, Herts, make oath and say as follows:-

1. I arrived at KUALA LUMPUR camp on February 1 1942 and remained there
until the camp was closed, at the end of the second week in October 1942.]
The senior officer (British) was Colonel HARTIGAN of the Royal Chertwal
Rifles, Indian Army. He handed over later to Colonel FITZPATRICK of an
Indian Army unit. The camp interpreter was Major O.B.L. North of the 3/17th
Dhobra Regiment.

2. KUALA LUMPUR was apparently used by the Japanese as a collecting
centre for allied prisoners who were captured in Malaya. In February 1942
about 250 British prisoners were accommodated there; by April strength
increased to about 700.

3. Accommodation for British other ranks consisted of a compound about
40 yards square, officers were put into what was formerly the female ward of
KUALA LUMPUR prison. Accommodation was very cramped and all ranks had to
sleep literally shoulder to shoulder. The female ward was a building inside
the compound, and the whole camp occupied a portion of KUALA LUMPUR gaol.
As a result of many protests the Japanese allowed us, in March, to use a
small room in the prison for the sick. In April we were given a wing of
the prison and the use of the prison hospital. In May we were handed over
the whole of the prison and from that time accommodation was satisfactory.

4. Food consisted of rice only, together with an issue of salt and
drinking water which we got from the main water supply in the prison. This
food was very inadequate and remained so despite the later addition of a
small issue of green vegetables at the beginning of September. By that time
officers began to receive pay from the Japanese which enabled them to
purchase food from outside the prison. British other ranks had received
working pay during this period but this was insufficient to purchase enough
food to make the Japanese army issue up to an adequate quantity.

5. During the first 3 months the death rate among the prisoners was
10% and about 166 men died; most of these cases were battle injuries and men
suffering from fever and battle exhaustion. The Japanese provided no
bandages, no medicines and no medical attention whatever. The only equip-
ment in our hands was what we were able to buy secretly through local
inhabitants.

6. I do not know who the Japanese commandant was when we entered the
camp but until May as far as I recall the camp was in charge of a Japanese
serjeant. After that date Lt. MIZUTANA (spelled phonetically) took over.

This man was responsible for our rations being about one quarter under weight. We succeeded in securing the Japanese ration scale for prisoners of war, and weighed such food as we received and checked it against this scale. When we complained to MIZUTANA the scales were tested in his presence. They were found to be correct and were promptly impounded by MIZUTANA.

7. The Japanese interpreter was a civilian employed by the Japanese Army by the name of TAMKA (spelled phonetically); this man on the whole was co-operative and helpful. British officers were not forced to work but British other ranks were employed daily from about 0900 hours till 1800 hours in various jobs including collecting scrap metal, repairing bridges and assisting in the Japanese supply dumps and they received pay for this work.

8. When the camp was closed in October 1942 the camp adjutant, Captain Anthony Gardner of the Loyals took the camp records to CH NGI. I do not know what happened to them.

SWORN by the said Laurence John)
SEEKINGS at 6 Spring Gardens in) (Signed) J.W. SEEKINGS.
the City of Westminster this)
Tenth day of January 1946)

Before me,

(Signed) J.G. MASON
Captain.
Legal Staff.

Office of the Judge Advocate General,
LONDON, S.W.1.

I certify that this is a true copy of the original affidavit.

(Signed) HDL KELLY
Legal Staff.
Office of the Judge Advocate General.

Certified true copy of original affidavit.

18th April 1946.

(Signed) R.B. LAMBE, Lt.Colonel.
AMG War Crimes. HQ ALFSEA.